

of Defense regulations leave it up to individual elements of the Department to determine on a case-by-case basis whether or not organizational conflicts of interest can be mitigated, and if so, what mitigation measures are required. The conferees agree that additional guidance is required to tighten existing requirements, provide consistency throughout the Department, and ensure that advice provided by contractors is objective and unbiased. In developing the regulations required by this section for cases in which mitigation is determined to be appropriate, the conferees expect the Secretary to give consideration to strengthened measures of organizational separation of the type included in the Senate bill.

TITLE III—ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION PROVISIONS

Awards for Department of Defense personnel for excellence in the acquisition of products and services (sec. 301)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 206) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a program to recognize excellent performance by individuals and teams in the acquisition of products and services for the Department of Defense.

The House amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 206). The conference report includes this provision.

Earned value management (sec. 302)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 207) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to review and improve guidance governing the implementation of Earned Value Management (EVM) systems for Department of Defense (DOD) contracts.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would incorporate the requirements of the Senate provision into section 887 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417), which requires the Secretary of Defense to identify and address shortcomings in EVM systems for DOD contracts.

Expansion of national security objectives of the national technology and industrial base (sec. 303)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 208) that would amend section 2501 of title 10, United States Code, to address critical design skills in the national technology and industrial base and require reports on the termination of major defense acquisition programs.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment requiring that defense capability assessments performed pursuant to section 2505 of title 10, United States Code, consider the effects of the termination of major defense acquisition programs. The outcome of this assessment would be incorporated into the annual reports required by section 2504 of title 10, United States Code.

Comptroller General of the United States reports on costs and financial information regarding major defense acquisition programs (sec. 304)

The Senate bill contained two provisions (sec. 104(b) and sec. 209) that would require reports by the Government Accountability Office on: (1) operating and support costs of major weapon systems; and (2) financial information relating to major defense acquisition programs.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment incorporating the two reporting requirements into a single provision.

COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE AND HOUSE RULES

Compliance with rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding earmarks and congressionally directed spending items

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule XLIV(3) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, neither this conference report nor the accompanying joint statement of managers contains any congressional earmarks, congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits, as defined in such rules.

IKE SKELTON,
JOHN M. SPRATT,
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ,
GENE TAYLOR,
NEIL ABERCROMBIE,
SILVESTRE REYES,
VIC SNYDER,
ADAM SMITH,
LORETTA SANCHEZ,
MIKE MCINTYRE,
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JIM COOPER,
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JOHN M. MCHUGH,
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT,
HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,
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WALTER B. JONES,
W. TODD AKIN,
J. RANDY FORBES,
JEFF MILLER,
JOE WILSON,
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
DUNCAN HUNTER,
MIKE COFFMAN,

Managers on the Part of the House.

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EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
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JOSEPH LIEBERMAN,
JACK REED,
DANIEL K. AKAKA,
BILL NELSON,
BEN NELSON,
EVAN BAYH,
JIM WEBB,
CLAIRE MCCASKILL,
MARK UDALL,
KAY R. HAGAN,
MARK BEGICH,
ROLAND W. BURRIS,
JOHN MCCAIN,
JAMES M. INHOFE,
JEFF SESSIONS,
SAXBY CHAMBLISS,
LINDSEY GRAHAM,
JOHN THUNE,
MEL MARTINEZ,
ROGER F. WICKER,
RICHARD BURR,
DAVID VITTER,
SUSAN COLLINS,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Today, I rise to recognize May 17 through May 23 as National Small Business Week. Small businesses are a critical part of our economy. In fact, over 60 percent of all jobs are created by small businesses in our Nation. And, in addition, as a result of the current crisis, we have seen an increasing number of people wanting to start their own businesses or beginning to create their own business.

For example, a recent poll showed that 37 percent of Americans are either running their own business or they're about to create their own business. I believe that innovation and growth in the small business sector is one of the key parts of what they contribute to our economic recovery. To help encourage that recovery, I'm committed to making sure that the Federal Government offers assistance and support to small businesses throughout our Nation.

I'm pleased that today the House will consider H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. It will provide critical training services to entrepreneurs across our Nation.

THE ENERGY TAX WILL HURT REAL PEOPLE

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. As this Congress debates cap-and-trade, we need to remember that coal is our Nation's most abundant resource, providing 50 percent of this Nation's electricity and 98 percent of the electricity generated in my State.

We all want a cleaner environment, but this cap-and-trade bill is not the answer. The majority's bill is a \$646 billion national energy tax that will hit States like West Virginia the hardest.

It will essentially make the coal-reliant heartland unfairly subsidize our friends on the west coast and in the Northeast. An average energy bill for an average family will go up by at least \$1,500, and those hardest hit will be those that can least afford it.

People in the lower-income bracket will be spending more and more of their income on energy than any other income brackets. By 2020, folks in the lower-income brackets in West Virginia could be spending between 24 percent and 27 percent of their entire income on energy. Manufacturing will also be hit with major cost increases making electricity far more expensive.

As we continue to debate this issue, Congress needs to remember that cap-and-trade has a real cost on real people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.